

George comment irks Assam Janata leader

GAUHATI, April 24 (UNI): Assam Janata Party vice-president Siva Prasad Barooh has expressed surprise over the reported statement of Union Industry Minister George Fernandes at Silchar that Chief Minister Golap need not seek vote of confidence.

Mr Barooh said yesterday that Mr Fernandes' comment was unwarranted and uncalled for.

He said in a statement that Mr Fernandes was not the "sole authority" in this matter and he should not have made the hasty comment when every one of us here was attempting to solve the leadership issue amicably.

Mr Altaf Hussain Mazumdar, a dissident leader of the Assam Janata Legislature Party said yesterday that the Janata Parliamentary Board would soon ask Mr Borbora to seek a fresh vote of confidence.

Mr Mazumdar, after his return from Delhi on Sunday told newsmen that he along with other dissident members had met Prime Minister Morarji Desai, party president Chandrashekhar and general secretary R K Hedge.

He said our impression was that the central leadership had fully realised the Borbora Ministry's failure to deliver the goods. He described Mr Fernandes' statement at Silchar on

Sunday as "prejudiced" and "misleading".

Meanwhile, JLP general secretary Mukut Sarma denied a press report that 15 Congress MLAs were willing to support Mr Borbora. He said the vote of confidence was an affair of the JLP and the Congress MLAs had nothing to do with it.

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